--- 25 Cigarettes - “Benson & Hedges” [80 • E • 1] - 1965-67 ---

The Canadian operations of “Benson and Hedges” was established by Arthur Walsh, a London (U.K.) bookkeeper who had been placed in charge of their New York branch in 1895, and who opened the first “Benson and Hedges” store in Montreal in 1906. In 1927 “Benson and Hedges” moved into the Canadian cigar market when they purchased the assets of “J. Hirsch and Sons Ltd.”, Montreal [**34-10D**] which had been manufacturing cigars since the 1880’s.

In July 1958 “Philip Morris Incorporated” (which had merged with “Benson and Hedges”, New York, in 1954) also merged with “Benson and Hedges (Canada) Limited” [**8-10D**] and in 1961 opened a modern cigarette factory at Brampton, Ontario [**1 • 80 • E**].

In 1962 “Benson and Hedges (Canada) Limited” purchased “Tabacofina of Canada” [**30-10D**] and acquired their cigarette factory in Montreal where they had for some years manufactured *Belvedere* cigarettes. The company’s range of cigarettes included *Parliament*; *Alpine*; *Benson & Hedges* 100 mm. plain and menthol; *Mark 10*, plain and menthol; *Belvedere*, and *Belmont*.

The cancellations of **8-10D** - “Benson and Hedges”, Montreal - seem to stop early in 1965. Since they had purchased “Canadian Tabacofina”, Montreal, in 1962, one would presume that their Montreal cigarette production was transferred to the newly acquired plant in 1965. Their newly constructed plant **1 • 80 • E** - “Benson and Hedges”, Brampton - continued production for Ontario. In 1965 the company code was reversed to read as **80 • E • 1**.

The following series are found on the imperforate *twenty-five* cigarette Series “C” using a heavy four mm. Gothic letter. I had felt that these form a complete twenty-six letter sequence reading in months of production however the appearance of **E** on a copy of **RC-817** in the “Wings” Series makes it likely that they form a twelve letter code-word, since these copies must come close to the introduction of the “Wings” Series. From the other cigarette series used by their Rothman affiliate “Canadian Tabacofina” Limited, the letters **A**, **C**, and **L** can be added to the following sequence. The copy **R** is from eBay.

The letter dates below are only placed in alphabetical order, and are open to change.

★**RC-394** - 25 cigarettes, imperf, coded by **R** / **80 • E • 1** / **R** by “Benson & Hedges”

--- a single copy to date ---

[★RC-394]	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1966	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1967	---	---	---	---	---	**R**	---	---	---	---	---	---

The collection ***does not contain*** a copy of the *twenty-five* cigarette “Wings” Series with the letter cancellation in red ink.

--- 25 Cigarettes - “Wings” Series - “Benson & Hedges” [80 • E • 1] - 1968-74 ---

Then follows a numbered sequence on the twenty-five cigarette “Wings” Series using a heavy Gothic typeface, running from **01** to **81** (the highest found to date - for September 1974, which was unused). Judging by the packaging fragments on the stamps most came from *Belvedere* boxes.

★**RC-817** - 25 cigarettes, imperf, coded by **16** / **80 • E • 1** / **16** by “Benson & Hedges” in April 1969

--- 30 copies to date ---

[★RC-817]	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1968	**01**	---	**03**	**04**	**05**	---	**07**	---	---	---	**11**	**12**
1969	---	**14**	**15**	**16**	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**	---	---	---	**24**
1970	---	---	**27**	---	---	**30**	---	---	---	---	---	---
1971	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1972	---	**50**	**51**	**52**	**53**	**54**	**55**	**56**	---	---	**59**	**60**
1973	**61**	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1974	---	---	**75**	---	---	---	**79**	**80**	**81**	---	---	---

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File path is [c:\ MS - STAMPS \ RC_STAMPS \ 1935 - Series C \ 25 cigarettes \ 80E-1 - small - red codes],
In MS Word 2007 for Windows 7,
Formatted for a HP CP 1525 Laser Jet,
December 29th 2013, JBH